

# NEWS IN brief

## Malaysia summons anti-PM protest organizers

AFP, Kuala Lumpur  
The organisers of a massive weekend demonstration demanding the Malaysian prime minister's removal over corruption allegations yesterday said they had been summoned by police, after the government earlier threatened they could face charges. Prime Minister Najib Razak has been under fire since the Wall Street Journal last month published Malaysian documents showing nearly \$700 million had been deposited into his personal bank accounts beginning in 2013.

## Shebab attack African Union base in Somalia

AFP, Mogadishu  
Somalia's al-Qaeda-affiliated Shebab militants rammed a suicide car bomb into an African Union base yesterday before storming the compound, with witnesses reporting many dead, although the AU insisted it had fought off the attack. Witnesses spoke of more than 20 bodies at the site, while the Shebab claimed to have killed 50. AMISOM was unable to confirm any casualty figures.

## Tension flares in Kiev over autonomy bill

AFP, Kiev  
Ukraine was in shock yesterday after fierce clashes outside parliament killed three policemen and wounded 140 people as tensions flared over controversial legislation giving more autonomy to pro-Russian rebels. It was the worst unrest in Kiev since a bloody uprising ousted a Moscow-backed president in early 2014.



Migrants protest at the Eastern (Keleti) railway station of Budapest yesterday, during the evacuation of the railway station by local police.

# EU grapples with migrant crisis

AFP, Budapest  
Hungarian police blocked hundreds of migrants from boarding trains to western Europe from Budapest's main rail station yesterday, as figures showed more than 350,000 have risked their lives to cross the Mediterranean this year. As hundreds of police, some in riot gear, moved people out of Keleti station, statistics from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) revealed the scale of the crisis in Europe which is facing the biggest movement of people since World War II. IOM figures show over 234,770 migrants have landed in Greece alone this year -- more than the entire Europe-wide figure for 2014 which was 219,000. At least 2,600 died on the journey, drowning or suffocating in dangerous or unseaworthy boats, it said. Another 114,276 made it to Italy, while most of the others were split between Spain and Malta. In a separate statement, the UN children's agency (UNICEF) said 80 percent of those arriving in Macedonia, a major transit point on the route to western Europe, were refugees from the bloody civil war in Syria. A third of them were women and children, and one in every eight women was pregnant, the agency said, indicating that an estimated 100,000 people had passed through the country since June. Stories of refugees dying in horrific conditions inside rickety boats or crammed into lorries have become an almost weekly occurrence, with European Council President Donald Tusk

yesterday saying the bloc's main priority was "preventing migrants from losing their lives" en route to safety. Meanwhile, around two hundred refugees were locked in a standoff with police outside Budapest's Keleti station after they were prevented from travelling to western Europe, an AFP correspondent said. The ban was enforced just 24 hours after

### DEVELOPMENTS

- Chaos as Hungary closes main train station to migrants
- Spain says crisis 'Europe's greatest challenge'
- Rift emerges within the 28-nation bloc over treatment of migrants

police had unexpectedly allowed people stuck for days in makeshift refugee camps to leave the Hungarian capital, with hundreds surging onto trains bound for Germany and Austria, despite many not having EU visas. The sudden movement of people saw the highest number of migrants entering Austria in a single day this year, with police saying 3,650 arriving in Vienna by train on Monday. Many of the migrants continued on to Germany, which last week eased asylum restric-

tions for Syrian refugees. German police said a record 2,200 asylum-seekers had turned up in Bavaria yesterday morning. An unprecedented number of migrants have also arrived in Belgium in recent weeks. Sweden also said on Tuesday that the number of weekly asylum requests was nearing historic levels. The record influx of refugees and migrants is Europe's "greatest challenge" for the coming years, Spain's Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy declared yesterday during talks in Berlin with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The escalating situation has divided the member bloc ahead of emergency talks on September 14. At the heart of the crisis lies the question over how to distribute the migrants across the EU and help relieve pressure on so-called "frontline" nations where migrants arrive by sea or land. Much-flouted EU rules, known as the Dublin regulation, stipulate that refugees should be processed in the first country they reach. But bloc member Hungary, where 50,000 migrants arrived in August, has said it cannot host so many newcomers, and has built a razor-wire fence along its border with Serbia to halt the influx. France's top diplomat has slammed the barrier as "scandalous", while Austria accused Hungary of being "sloppy" in its application of the Dublin rules, prompting a diplomatic spat with Budapest. The Hungarian government yesterday summoned the ambassadors of both countries to explain the remarks.

## Eight killed in Manipur violence

### Rioters go on the rampage to protest new tribal rights laws

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi  
At least eight people were killed and 27 injured when protesters went on the rampage during a general strike called by students' unions in northeastern Indian state of Manipur overnight over controversial tribal rights laws, media reports said yesterday. Indefinite curfew was imposed in Churachandpur town following the violence late on Monday. The town is 60km southwest of Manipur state capital Imphal, PTI reported. Police fired on the protesters in Manipur state after they torched the homes of local and federal lawmakers, hours after the bills passed through the local parliament. Tensions have been brewing in recent weeks ahead of a vote on three bills aimed at giving more rights to indigenous groups who accuse "outsiders" of taking land and jobs. Three bullet-riddled bodies were found in Churachandpur town on Monday and another four yesterday while a charred body was also recovered from under the debris at the residence of a legislator Manga Vaiphei yesterday morning in the town, PTI quoted a police officer as saying. The houses of a junior minister, an MP and five state legislators were set on fire by the protesters in Churachandpur town. Churachandpur district hospital authorities said 20 persons were admitted to the hospital on Monday, of which seven were discharged after first-aid. The three bills, passed in the Assembly on Monday, which provoked the tribal students to indulge in violence and arson are: Protection of Manipur People Bill, 2015, Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms (Seventh amendment) Bill, 2015, and Manipur Shops and Establishments (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015.



A Nepalese demonstrator clashes with police as they try to break through to a cordoned-off area near parliament during a protest demanding Nepal be declared a Hindu state in Kathmandu, yesterday. 5 demonstrators died yesterday after being shot by police in Nepal as anger deepened over the country's draft constitution. Police shot dead four people from the Madhesi ethnic minority in separate incidents in the south of the country. Nepal's plans laid out in the draft charter to divide the Himalayan nation into seven provinces have sparked fury among historically marginalised communities including the Madhesis, who say the new borders will limit their political representation.



## Thousands of Clinton emails released

AFP, Washington  
The US State Department released over 4,000 more of the emails former secretary of state and presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton kept on a private server Monday and revealed that some 150 others have been retroactively classified. Clinton has been criticized for using a private server rather than an official government domain for all her emails during her time at the State Department.

## India accuses Google of online search abuse

AFP, New Delhi  
India's competition investigators have accused Google of abusing its market dominance in online searches in the country, deepening the US Internet giant's woes with governments around the world. Three years after starting its investigation, the Competition Commission of India's preliminary report said Google favoured its own services when customers ran searches, suggesting breaches of competition law.

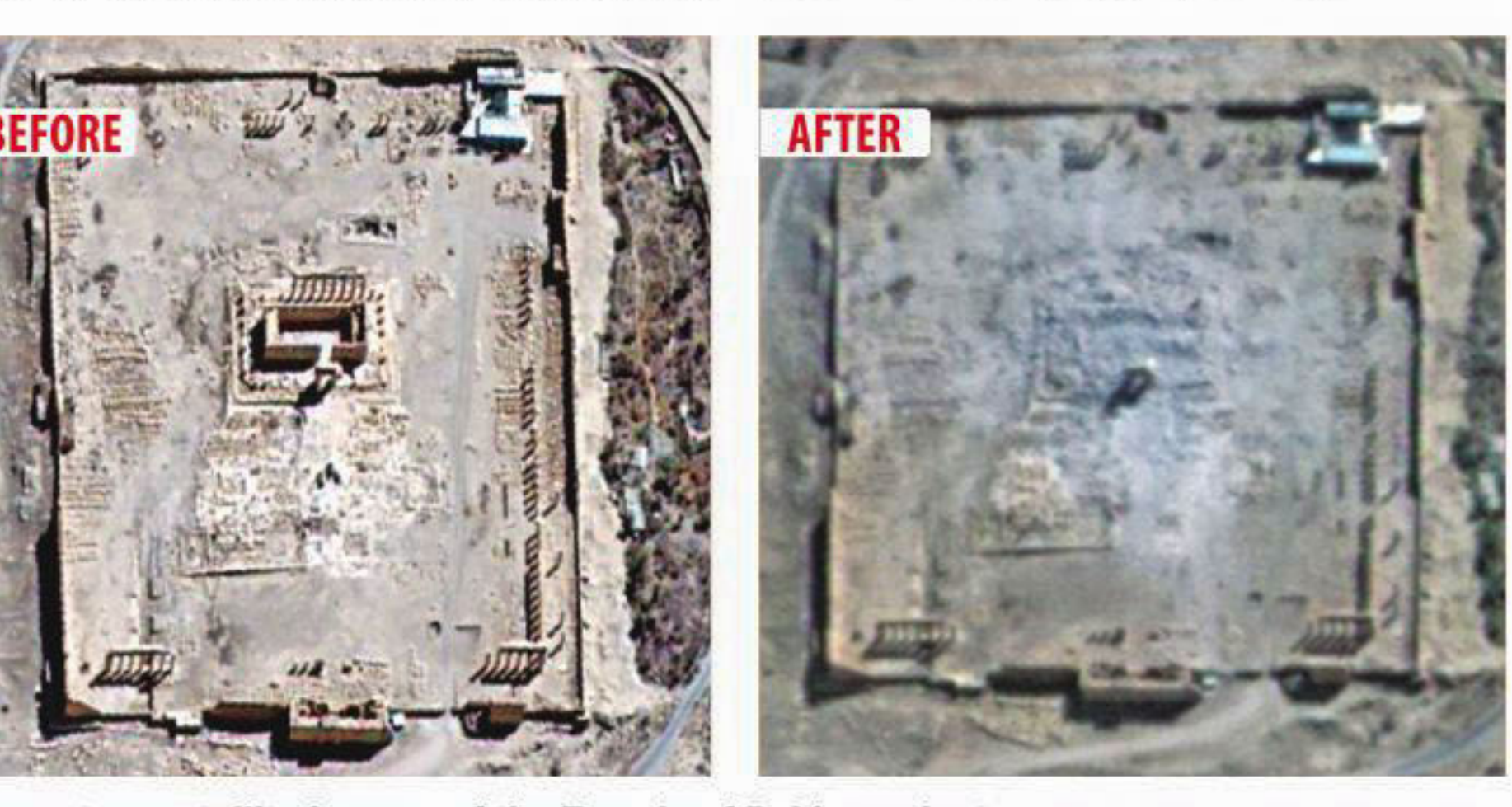
## US still Iran's 'No.1 enemy': key cleric

AFP, Tehran  
The United States remains Iran's "number one enemy" despite a recent nuclear deal with world powers, the chief of Tehran's top clerical body said yesterday, Iranian media reported. The Assembly of Experts is among Iran's most influential institutions, comprising 86 elected clerics who appoint and can dismiss the country's supreme leader, led by ultraconservative Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi.

## A 'crime against civilisation'

### UN confirms destruction of famed Palmyra temple

AFP, Paris  
Unesco-listed heritage site. Unesco said that satellite imagery showed the temple was destroyed on August 30 with explosives. It described the Temple of Bel as one of the best preserved in Palmyra and one of the most important religious edifices of the first century in the Orient. Dozens of relics remain at risk in the ruins of Palmyra, which ISIS jihadists seized from regime forces in May. The extremist group's harsh philosophy condemns pre-Islamic religious sites and considers statues and grave markers to be idolatrous, but it has also been accused of destroying heritage to loot items for the black market and to gain publicity.



These two satellite images of the Temple of Bel in ancient city of Palmyra released by UN confirm the destruction.

## Sri Lanka unity govt sworn in

AFP, Colombo  
Sri Lanka's president urged the new parliament yesterday to take "difficult political decisions" to bring about ethnic reconciliation six years after the end of a decades-long separatist war. Maithripala Sirisena called on lawmakers to take the lead in healing the wounds of the war that ended in 2009, hours after they were sworn into the 225-seat parliament following last month's general election. Sirisena came to power in January promising reconciliation and accountability for alleged war crimes committed by troops under the command of then-president Mahinda Rajapakse. The UNP and Rajapakse's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) agreed last month to enter a broad-based coalition government. Rajapakse, who refused to join the coalition, took his seat on the opposition benches yesterday along with a group of his supporters.

## World must speed climate change fight

### Says Obama during Alaska visit

AFP, Anchorage  
US President Barack Obama warned Monday that climate change is no longer a problem of the future, but rather a challenge for now and one that will define the next century. Describing the "urgent and growing" threat that was not being addressed quick enough, Obama sketched the problems already facing people living in one of America's last wilderness frontiers. The challenge "will define the contours of this century more dramatically than any other," he told a conference in Anchorage, Alaska before a scheduled visit to a glacier. "Human activity is disrupting the climate, in many ways faster than we thought," he said, with one eye on Republicans who reject humans' role in heating the planet. "The deniers are increasingly alone, on their own shrinking island. The science is stark, it is sharpening, and it proves that this once-distant threat is now very much in the present." Obama also stressed that climate change "is happening here. It is happening now." He listed a thawing permafrost; warmer, more acidic oceans and rivers; species migration; shoreline erosion and longer bush fire seasons among a litany of problems. "We are not moving fast enough," Obama insisted, as he tries to build support for an international pact to curb warming. In December, representatives from around the world will gather in Paris to agree to cap global temperature increases by two degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels. "This year, in Paris, must be the year that the world finally reaches an agreement to protect the one planet we've got while we still can," Obama said.

## BANGKOK BLAST

### Police arrest second foreign suspect

AFP, Bangkok  
A foreign man described as a "main suspect" in the deadly Bangkok bombing was arrested yesterday, with Thai police calling him an important figure in the network that staged the attack. The man detained near the border with Cambodia is the second foreigner held over the August 17 blast at a religious shrine which killed 20 people, mostly ethnic Chinese tourists. Police also said arrest warrants have been issued for three fresh suspects still at large, two of whom have names which appear foreign. National police spokesman Prawut Thavornsiri said investigators believe the suspect is "an important person in the network" behind the bombing, Thailand's worst single mass-casualty attack. DNA samples were being taken from the man to see if they match any locations searched by police.

